

Get the Facts: Safe Backing Up

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT BACKING UP SAFETY?

Backing up may seem easy and straightforward, but it's not an easy maneuver and can be further complicated by:

- The Driver's seat faces forward
- Larger, longer and taller vehicles with bigger blind spots
- Mirrors that may distort images
- Drivers distractions
- Low visibility conditions
- Physical barriers that make it difficult to see

The key to crash prevention is process and close attention to your surroundings for what you can see and may not be able to see.

BEST PRACTICES FOR BACKING UP

- Get to know the vehicle's blind spots. Mirrors never give you the whole picture.
- If your vehicle has a backup camera, use it, but don't rely only on it.
- Think in advance. Choose easy-exit parking spaces.
- Take extra precautions when parking in alleys. If you can't pull all the way through or turn around, back in so you can enter the street going forward.
- Do a walk-around to get a firsthand view of the backing area.
- Know the clearances and check for obstructions.
- Every backing situation is new and different. Guard against becoming complacent.
- Use a spotter. Whenever possible, use a second person to help guide the driver using hand signals.

4 RULES TO BACKING

- Never back up unless you have to
- If you back up, do it slowly
- Back up as if you expect to hit something
- Keep looking back until you are completely stopped

A startling one out of every four crashes involves backing – especially since the average driver operates in reverse less than a mile every year.

Of the half million backing up accidents annually, 15,000 included some sort of injury.

Approximately 210 people are killed annually from backing crashes, mostly children under the age of five.

